

## Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-02 ARA-06 EUR-12 /025 W

----- 128412

R 191215Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8576

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS XL BB BW VQ

SUBJ: AMENDMENT OF 22CFR 41.6 (B)

1. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT TERMINATION OF WAIVER OF NOIMMIGRANT VISAS NOW AUTHORIZED UNDER 22 CFR 41.6 (B) IS IMMINENT AND THAT PUBLICATION OF AMENDMENT MAY TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH. SOME LOCAL GOVERNMENT SOURCES HAVE ALSO INFORMED EMBASSY THAT THEY HAVE HEARD OF CHANGE FROM BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHDC. WE EXPECT A HEAVY INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR NIV SERVICES FROM AFFECTED ALIENS IN OUR CONSULAR DISTRICT EVEN BEFORE CANCELLATION OF WAIVER BECOMES KNOWN THROUGH PUBLICATION IN FEDERAL REGISTER.

2. SINCE, GIVE SIZE OF PRESENT STAFF AND LACK OF SLACK WHICH WOULD PERMIT US TO CUT CORNERS, DEMAND WILL THEN BE UNMANAGEABLE, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT ACTION BE TAKEN FORTHWITH TO INCREASE STAFF OF EMBASSY'S NIV UNIT. ALTHOUGH IT IS DIFFICULT TO FORESEE EXACT DIMENSIONS OF INCREASE IN WORKLOAD, WE HAVE ESTIMATED IN PAST (BTN 1632 AND CONSULAR PACKAGE-FY-1976) THAT, IF ALL REPEAT ALL APPLICANTS RESIDENT IN DISTRICT WERE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN NIVS TO TRAVEL TO PUERTO RICO OR US VIRGIN ISLANDS, TOTAL SERVICES COULD INCREASE BY 2,000 A MONTH OR MORE. BASED ON INDICATIONS THAT RESIDENTS OF BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS WILL CONTINUE TO BENEFIT FROM WAIVER AND BE EXEMPT FROM NIV REQUIREMENT FOR VISITS TO US VIRGINS, EMBASSY NOW BELIEVES THAT WE MUST ANTICIPATE INCREASED WORKLOAD OF MORE THAN 1,500 NEW APPLICATIONS PER MONTH. SINCE OUR PRESENT RATE OF NIV PROCESSING (ISSUANCES AND REFUSALS) AVERAGES 1360 PER MONTH, WE WILL NEED AN INCREMENT OF AT LEAST ONE OFFICER AND THREE LOCALS TO PROCESS THE INCREASE, ASSUMING

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APPLICANTS WILL CONTINUE TO APPLY EITHER IN PERSON OR BY MAIL.

IF THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD REQUIRE US TO TAKE APPLICATIONS IN FIELD, WE WOULD NEED ONE ADDITIONAL REPEAT ADDITIONAL OFFICER.

3. WE DO NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT HAVING OFFICERS TRAVEL IN DISTRICT TO TAKE NIV APPLICATIONS WOULD BE AN EFFICIENT USE OF OUR RESOURCES. VISAS COULD NOT BE ISSUED ON THE SPOT FOR SECURITY REASONS (TODD PROTECTOGRAPH, VLOB CHECKS, COUNTERFOIL PROCEDURES), AND APPLICATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN TO BRIDGETOWN OR SENT THERE FOR FINAL ACTION. AT LEAST TWO OFFICERS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO BE IN ALMOST CONTINUOUS TRAVEL STATUS IN ORDER TO COVER ADEQUATELY THE EIGHT ISLAND GROUPINGS WHICH WOULD REQUIRE SERVICES. IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO RESTRICT DUTIES OF CONOFFS CONCERNED TO INTERVIEWING NIVS ONLY; HEAVY PRESSURES WOULD BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THEM TO ACCEPT OTHER CONSULAR FUNCTIONS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO REPORTS OF BIRTH, NOTARIALS, AND PASSPORT APPLICATIONS. UNLESS TRAVELING CONOFFS RETURNED TT BR DOETOWN AFTER EACH SORTIE TO ANOTHER ISLAND--AND THIS IS NOT PRACTICAL WHEN OFFICERS IN NORTHERN PART OF DISTRICT-- APPLICATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE MAILED IN FROM ISLANDS AND, IN ANY EVENT, RETURNED TO APPLICANTS BY MAIL. MAIL SERVICE IN THIS ENTIRE AREA IS NEITHER EFFICIENT NOR DEPENDABLE AND AT BEST IS VERY SLOW. SOME APPLICATIONS WOULD BE DELAYED, OTHERS LOST, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS WOULD SUFFER SINCE CONOFFS WOULD BE BLAMED FOR DELAYS IN RECEIPT, OR FOR NONRECEIPT OF VISAED PASSPORTS. AT PRESENT TIME, RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH DELAYS OR LOSS CAN BE PLACED SQUARELY ON POSTAL AUTHORITIES CONCERNED.

4. IN ANY EVENT, WE WILL NEED IMMEDIATELY ESTIMATED DOLS 7,000 TO ENLARGE CONSULAR SECTION TO HOUSE INCREASED STAFF AND OBTAIN ADDITIONAL OFFICE EQUIPMENT. IF DEPARTMENT REQUIRES TRAVEL BY CONOFFS TO ISLAND, ADDITIONAL PROVISION WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE FOR TRAVEL COSTS AND PER DIEM. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT COST INVOLVED WOULD NOT BE COMMENSURATE WITH MARGINAL BENEFITS WHICH WOULD ACCRUE TO THE US. FEW OF THE NIV APPLICANTS FROM THIS DISTRICT SPEND MUCH MONEY IN THE US; MOST STAY WITH RELATIVES AND CONTRIBUTE VERY LITTLE TO THE NATIONAL WEALTH. MOREOVER, SINCE THERE IS A PROPENSITY FOR OUR CLIENTS TO ATTEMPT TO STAY IN US AND WORK AND SEND MONEY HOME, THERE IS A CONTINUING ADVERSE EFFECT ON OUR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS.

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5. ALSO, WE WOULD STRONGLY URGE THAT SECOND OFFICER POSITION IN CONSULAR SECTION BE UPGRADED TO FSO-5 AND FILLED BY EXPERIENCED CONSULAR OFFICER OF THAT RANK. THIS IS JUSTIFIED IN VIEW OF GREATLY INCREASED VOLUMEN OF BUSINESS THAT MAY BE EXPECTED BECAUSE OF AMENDMENT AND INCREASED SIZE OF CONSULAR SECTION AS A RESULT. ALSO, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE PENDING TRANSFER OF THREE OF FOUR OFFICERS NOW ASSIGNED TO CONSULAR DUTIES AT BRIDGETOWN AFFORDS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO EFFECT THIS CHANGE.

6. WE WOULD AGAIN LIKE TO REMIND DEPARTMENT THAT THIS WOULD BE  
EXCELLENT TIME, TOO, TO INSTALL ELECTRONIC VLOB SYSTEM, FUNDS  
FOR WHICH ARE HOPEFULLY BEING INCLUDED IN BUDGET REQUEST OF  
FY 1976 (STATE 84147).  
BRITTON

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